

WHAT IS VSCA?

Founded in 1962, the Virginia School Counselor Association is a state chapter of the American School Counselor Association. VSCA provides professional development opportunities through workshops and conferences, advocacy at the state and national level, networking opportunities through in-person (when safe) and social media outlets, and relevant information to school counselors throughout the state.

WHAT ARE VSCA'S ENDS POLICIES?

Our association exists to ensure Virginia School Counselors practice with the highest level of effectiveness and integrity.

1. **Virginia School Counselors** are leaders who share a common and consistent professional identity. They:
 - are committed to working with and advocating for marginalized groups.
 - practice within a data-informed, culturally responsive comprehensive school counseling framework.
 - employ evidence-based frameworks/models.
 - utilize trauma-informed counseling practices.
 - promote the mental health and wellness of all students.
 - assist students in the cultivation of college and career readiness.
 - support students in developing the skills necessary to attain academic and postsecondary success.
 - adhere to the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors and actively work to dismantle destructive systemic inequities.
 - advocate in local, state, and national initiatives that impact the school counseling profession.
 - improve their knowledge and efficacy through continuous professional development activities.

2. **Virginia School Counselor Educators** are knowledgeable about current standards and best practices. They maintain a high level of professionalism, academic rigor, and experiential learning within their school counseling degree programs. School counselor

educators have professional experience in K-12 school settings, remain connected to practice, and provide ongoing support for the school counseling profession.

3. **Virginia Key Stakeholders** (including but not limited to school administrators, district leaders, policy makers, and community members) understand the current role of the school counselor and support the school counseling profession.

WHAT IS THE EMERGING LEADERS AND ONBOARDING INITIATIVE?

The Emerging Leaders and Onboarding (training and equipping newly elected board members board policies and procedures) initiative's goal is to create a process to inform and equip new and aspiring board members effectively and efficiently to assume leadership positions within VSCA.

We wish to create and communicate clear and concise expectations for board positions and growth within the organization's leadership structure.

HOW WILL THE EMERGING LEADERS AND ONBOARDING INITIATIVE SUPPORT LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH WITHIN VSCA?

The Emerging Leaders and Onboarding initiative will provide...

- Historical and current information about VSCA's policies, procedures, and programs.
- Rationale/context for major changes within VSCA's operating procedures.
- A mentorship pairing process for new and current board members.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND GROWTH WILL THE EMERGING LEADERS AND ONBOARDING INITIATIVE PROVIDE?

- Attend select VSCA board meetings throughout the year
- Be involved in committee work
- Be paired with a current board member in a mentor/ mentee capacity
- Be introduced at the annual conference as a part of the Emerging Leaders Cohort

- Present a session on the Emerging Leaders Cohort at the annual conference
- Learn more about leadership within the VSCA and the many roles such as committee members, committee chairs, board members, and other volunteer positions and beyond.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO BE AN EMERGING LEADER?

To be eligible to apply to be an Emerging Leader, the individual must:

- be a current member of VSCA
- be a school counselor, faculty in a school counselor education program, or a recently retired aforementioned position for no less than three years

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you are interested in applying to be a part of this cohort, please complete this form (below) before 11:59pm on Sunday, March 26, 2023.